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NMCC (LDX)

Department of State
Operations Center
(GUYANA TASK FORCE)

Situation Report No. 26

Situation in Guyana as of 2100 hours (EST), Nov. 30, 1978

Four technical experts from the Department of Justice are scheduled to arrive in Georgetown this evening to work with the Guyanese Government in their ongoing investigation of the Jonestown affair. The GOG is very sensitive about their presence and the term "FBI" is not being used. The men, who will work with their Guyanese counterparts, are experts in ballistics, sound recordings, and photography.

The Guyanese Government has appointed a conservator for the Peoples Temple assets in Guyana. The Embassy is making progress in retaining Guyanese legal counsel.

Embassy Georgetown reports that five Peoples Temple members (four of whom are Americans, including two survivors) may have been granted Guyanese citizenship earlier this year in order to meet requirements for forming a local corporation to cover Peoples Temple activities in Guyana. This development is being studied in terms of its possible effect on US actions with regard to Peoples Temple assets. Corporate status may preclude the Embassy from claiming custody of organizational property.

We have received from Georgetown the death certificate and autopsy report for Congressman Ryan. Copies have been delivered to the FBI and SCS. Congressional requests for these documents are being referred to the Justice Department.

In response to a call from the Governor of Delaware, John Bushnell has agreed that there will be no mass burial in Delaware of unidentified bodies, and that, at such time as we are reviewing options, we will seek the views of the State government regarding any unidentified or unclaimed bodies.

Stephen R. Gibson
Guyana Working Group

James E. Thyden
Senior Watch Officer

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Department of State

OUTGOING TELEGRAM

PAGE 01 STATE 303996 2197 STATE 303996

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INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SCS-06 CIAE-00 INR-10
NSAE-00 DODE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00 ICAE-00 INRE-00
PA-01 TRSE-00 MCT-02 CA-01 SY-05 USIS-00 H-01
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JUSTICE IMMEDIATE
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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 303996

LONDON FOR MICHAEL FINLEY

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: CASC, OREP (RYA[illegible]), GY

SUBJECT: SITUATION REPORT NO. 25, 11/30/78, 2100 (EST)
REF: STATE 302486

1. FOUR TECHNICAL EXPERTS FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE ARE SCHEDULED TO ARRIVE IN GEORGETOWN THIS EVENING TO WORK WITH THE GUYANESE GOVERNMENT IN THEIR ONGOING INVESTIGATION OF THE JONESTOWN AFFAIR. THE GOG IS VERY SENSITIVE ABOUT THEIR PRESENCE AND THE TERM "FBI" IS NOT BEING USED. THE MEN, WHO WILL WORK WITH THEIR GUYANESE COUNTERPARTS, ARE EXPERTS IN BALLISTICS, SOUND RECORDINGS, AND PHOTOGRAPHY.

2. THE GUYANESE GOVERNMENT HAS APPOINTED A CONSERVATOR FOR THE PEOPLES TEMPLE ASSETS IN GUYANA. THE EMBASSY IS MAKING PROGRESS IN RETAINING GUYANESE LEGAL COUNSEL.

3. EMBASSY GEORGETOWN REPORTS THAT FIVE PEOPLES TEMPLE MEMBERS (FOUR OF WHOM ARE AMERICANS, INCLUDING TWO SURVIVORS) MAY HAVE BEEN GRANTED GUYANESE CITIZENSHIP EARLIER THIS YEAR IN ORDER TO MEET REQUIREMENTS FOR FORMING A LOCAL CORPORATION TO COVER PEOPLES TEMPLE ACTIVITIES IN GUYANA. THIS DEVELOPMENT IS BEING STUDIED IN TERMS OF ITS POSSIBLE

EFFECT ON US ACTIONS WITH REGARD TO PEOPLES TEMPLE ASSETS. CORPORATE STATUS MAY PRECLUDE THE EMBASSY FROM CLAIMING CUSTODY OF ORGANIZATIONAL PROPERTY.

4. WE HAVE RECEIVED FROM GEORGETOWN THE DEATH CERTIFICATE AND AUTOPSY REPORT FOR CONGRESSMAN RYAN. COPIES HAVE BEEN DELIVERED TO THE FBI AND SCS. CONGRESSIONAL REQUESTS FOR THESE DOCUMENTS ARE BEING REFERRED TO THE JUSTICE DEPARTMENT.

5. IN RESPONSE TO A CALL FROM THE GOVERNOR OF DELAWARE, JOHN BUSHNELL HAS AGREED THAT THERE WILL BE NO MASS BURIAL IN DELAWARE OF UNIDENTIFIED BODIES, AND THAT, AT SUCH TIME AS WE ARE REVIEWING OPTIONS, WE WILL SEEK THE VIEWS OF THE STATE GOVERNMENT REGARDING ANY UNIDENTIFIED OR UNCLAIMED BODIES. VANCE

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